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The Urban District of Esher

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st

1945

Urban District of Esher

ANNUAL REPORT of the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1945

JAMES FANNING, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor Grennan (*Chairman*).

Councillor	Beavis	Councillor	Moritz
,,	Mrs. Derrett	,,	Pike
,,	Edwards	,,	Soan
,,	Gibbons	,,	Stevens
,,	Hallt	,,	Todd
,,	Lowe	,,	Wheatcroft
,,	McIntyre	,,	Wilson

Ex-Officio Members :

Councillor L. Franks, J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).
Councillor Mrs. E. L. Hale, J.P.
(*Vice-Chairman of the Council—resigned* 31/7/45).
Councillor E. R. Pike
(*Vice-Chairman of the Council—elected* 30/10/45).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health :

*J. Fanning, M.D., B.S. (London), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

*Reginald F. Wheeler, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*John C. Armstrong, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.San.I., Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

*John W. Hobson (resigned 7/7/45).

*Frank L. Barker (appointed 10/11/45), M.S.I.A., Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector. Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and in Sanitary Science.

Nurse :

Mrs. R. J. Britton, S.R.N. (appointed 2/7/45).

Clerks :

Miss M. E. Wedderburn (resigned 17/2/45).
Mrs. V. E. Read (appointed 19/2/45).
C. F. Packham (repatriated from Germany, May, 1945—Ex-P.o.W. Still serving with H.M. Forces as from 27/9/41).
Miss D. Marsh (appointed 22/1/45).

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfector :

J. Dolley.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :
Frederick Edwards.

Public Analyst :
Ed. Hinks, F.I.C.

*Contribution of salary made from the Exchequer.

Urban District of Esher.

Council Offices,

Esher.

July, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members

of the Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1945, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/46, dated 11th February, 1946.

The vital statistics of the district which are included in the text of the report are satisfactory, and there is no outstanding matter which calls for special comment.

I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the staff of the department during the year. All work has been done most efficiently and cheerfully. During the year we lost the services of Miss M. E. Wedderburn, Senior Clerk, and Mr. J. Hobson, Additional Sanitary Inspector, both by resignation. These appointments were filled by Mrs. V. Read and Mr. F. L. Barker respectively. An additional appointment of nurse to the Public Health Department was filled by Mrs. R. J. Britton, S.R.N.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Fanning, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)...	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	44,060
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1945—according to rate books	13,418
Rateable Value	£635,553
Product of a penny rate 1945/46	£2,560

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	697	381	316
Legitimate		354	283
Illegitimate		27	33

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —15.6.

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	17	6	11
Legitimate		5	10
Illegitimate		1	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			23.8

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	487	225	262

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population —11.1.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	33.3

BIRTHS

During the year 697 live births were registered, this being 75 less than last year's total. The rate per 1,000 population was 15.6, compared with an average of 16.1 for England and Wales.

Of the total number 60 or 8.6% were illegitimate.

DEATHS

During the year 487 deaths were registered, being 23 less than in 1944. The death rate per 1,000 population was 11.1, compared with the average of 11.4 for England and Wales.

The infantile mortality rate was 35.8 per 1,000 live births and compares with 46 for the average of England and Wales.

It is pleasing to record that no deaths took place from puerperal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH

		M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—respiratory	11	8	19
7.	Other Tuberculosis	3	—	3
8.	Syphilitic diseases	2	3	5
9.	Influenza	2	1	3
10.	Measles	—	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	—	1	1
13.	Cancer [of buccal cavity; and oesophagus (m) uterus (f)] ...	1	6	7
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	5	9
15.	Cancer of breast	—	7	7
16.	Cancer of all other sites	29	26	55
17.	Diabetes	2	—	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	24	42	66
19.	Heart disease	63	74	137
20.	Other circulatory diseases	8	10	18
21.	Bronchitis	15	9	24
22.	Pneumonia	13	4	17
23.	Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	1	3
25.	Diarrhœa under 2 years	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	2	1	3
27.	Other digestive diseases	4	6	10
28.	Nephritis	7	5	12
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31.	Premature birth	5	7	12
32.	Congenital debility...	5	12	17
33.	Suicide	4	2	6
34.	Road traffic accidents	1	2	3
35.	Other violent causes	3	9	12
36.	All other causes	13	19	32
	Totals	225	262	487

DEATHS.—AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—80	80 & over	Total
MALES	9	1	2	1	5	10	24	43	89	41	225
FEMALES	16	2	6	4	3	12	20	35	96	68	262
TOTALS	25	3	8	5	8	22	44	78	185	109	487

STATEMENT SHOWING WHERE DEATHS OCCURRED.

In District	298
Tolworth Isolation Hospital	3
Botley's Park Hospital	1
Surrey County Hospital, Redhill	8
Kingston County Hospital	60
London and other hospitals outside district	52
Died in other districts	65
TOTAL	487

Birth-rates. Civilian Death-rates. Analysis of Mortality. Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1945. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
	*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—			
Live Births	16.1 ‡	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still Births	0.46 ‡	0.58	0.53	0.40
Deaths:—				
All Causes	11.4 ‡	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Notifications:—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.67	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.21
Small-pox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	0.87	1.07	0.72	0.78

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. † Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
	*Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—			
Deaths under 1 year of age	46 †	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)

(a) Notifications:—

Puerperal Fever	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87 ‡

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22

Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales:—

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
18	6

‡ Including Puerperal Fever

SUMMARY OF BIRTH, INFANTILE MORTALITY & DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS.

Year.	Births.	Infantile Mortality.	Deaths.
1940	14.6	43.8	11.7
1941	14.3	41.7	11.6
1942	17.2	16.5	10.2
1943	17.8	31.0	11.3
1944	17.8	24.6	11.8
1945	15.6	35.8	11.1

The number of bodies received into the public mortuary was as follows:—

For post-mortem examination and inquest	19
For post-mortem examination only	31
To await burial	3
	53

RAINFALL.

Table showing rainfall in the district during 1945, taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher:—

January	1.54 ins.
February	1.38 ..
March	1.02 ..
April	1.16 ..
May	2.13 ..
June	1.24 ..
July	3.30 ..
August	1.32 ..
September	1.58 ..
October	2.50 ..
November	0.51 ..
December	2.79 ..
Total	20.47 ins.

Compared with the figures for the previous year this is a decrease of 1.04 inches.

Average yearly rainfall for the past 5 years: 22.33 inches.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1945.

DISEASES	Totals	AGE GROUPS. Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	59	—	—	5	3	4	25	7	4	4	5	2	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Dysentery	32	4	13	1	4	1	2	3	—	2	2	—	—
Suspected Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	754	22	57	59	54	93	388	44	18	10	5	4	—
Whooping Cough	48	3	7	5	5	12	12	2	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	41	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	20	5	11	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	1	2	2	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	962	30	77	70	67	110	433	61	26	40	25	21	2

DISEASES	Totals	WARDS. Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Cobham	Stoke d' Abernon	East Molesey	West Molesey
Scarlet Fever	59	6	3	5	3	4	2	15	21
Pneumonia	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	32	5	—	4	—	—	—	1	22
Suspected Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	754	128	13	101	73	88	82	91	178
Whooping Cough	48	9	—	3	1	31	2	—	2
Diphtheria	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	41	5	4	4	5	8	1	6	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	3	3	1	—	1	—	—	3
Malaria	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	962	159	24	120	85	133	87	114	240

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—The scarlet fever rate was slightly less than that of the previous year, fifty-nine cases being notified, a rate of 1.32 per 1,000 population. They were scattered indifferently as to time throughout the year, and there was no particular local incidence in any part of the district. The majority of cases were mild and there were no deaths. There were only five instances in which more than one case occurred in the same family.

There were two "infecting cases," which had recently been discharged from hospital. An "infecting case" is one which presumably gives rise to another within 28 days of its discharge from hospital or release from isolation.

Diphtheria.—Three cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. Two were mild cases in children who had been previously immunised elsewhere, and the other was a rather severe case in a male adult. The rate was 0.06 per 1,000 population.

With the return of more stable conditions there was a considerable increase in the number of children coming for immunisation. At the end of the year records in the Public Health Department showed that of the children living in the district age 0—5, 56 per cent have been immunised, and of the children age 5—15, 82 per cent have been immunised. As it is known that a considerable number of children have been immunised privately, it is certain that this is an underestimate.

The following number of children were immunised during the year:—

Number of children treated by Medical Officer of Health (pre-school 585, school 104)	689
Number of children treated by private doctors under Council's scheme (pre-school 60, school 25)	85
TOTAL number completing treatment	774

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified, two of whom were adults and the third a baby of eight months. None was apparently related to any other case, and while two made good recoveries, the third case was fatal.

Measles.—The incidence of measles was extremely heavy, a total of 754 cases being notified. The type of illness was not severe, however, and only nineteen requests were received from practitioners for prophylactic serum. Forty-six cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Dysentery.—Thirty-two cases of Sonne dysentery were notified during the year, and it is probable that many other cases of mild diarrhœa were due to this cause.

A troublesome concentrated outbreak of dysentery of this type occurred at a Day Nursery. The nursery caters for 60 children and has a staff of 15. Thirteen children and four members of the staff had symptoms, while a further eight children and two members of the staff were healthy carriers. The illness was of a fairly mild type in all cases. The onset of symptoms in the first cases was insidious, and it is probable that the infection was passed from case to case and not attributable to a food contamination. It is known that there were a number of cases of diarrhœa of an infective type in the district at the time. Such an outbreak can be very troublesome and expensive, but in view of the especial danger of an infection to young infants, strict preventive measures are essential. Bacteriological specimens were examined from all the children and staff to a total number of 275. All persons with symptoms or positive bacteriological results were excluded from the nursery and remained under the care of their own doctor until well again. Before being passed as free from infection three consecutive negative specimens were required from patients or carriers, and two negatives from all the others.

Scabies.—The scheme for the treatment of scabies referred to in recent reports continued successfully. The total number of cases reported was slightly less than during the previous year. During 1945, 592 persons from 196 families received treatment. Of these, 326 persons showed definite lesions, the remainder being contacts in the same family.

Verminous conditions.—Cases of infestation by the head louse were referred to the department from various sources from time to time, and these were treated by the Public Health nurse. Eighty-nine cases were treated in

this manner. There is still great scope for improvement in the cleanliness of the population in this respect. The supervision of children in school only is not sufficient, as they are frequently re-infested by younger children or older women in the home. The Public Health nurse works in close co-operation with the school authorities by visiting the homes of infested children and treating the relatives when necessary as well as the school children.

No case of body louse infestation came under notice.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The Council decided to make an appointment of a State Registered Nurse to the Public Health Department from 1st July. The duties of this officer include assistance with diphtheria immunisation, the treatment of scabies and other verminous conditions, routine infectious disease enquiries, the supervision of infectious cases treated at home, the following up of cases discharged from the isolation hospital, and various other useful functions. The following is a record of certain aspects of the work done during the final six months of the year:—

Home visits in connection with infectious disease	280
Other home visits	86
Attendances at diphtheria immunisation clinics	46
Number of treatments for scabies	596
Number of treatments for head lice	178

Tuberculosis.—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Age. Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	2	5	—	—	—	—
15	2	5	1	—	1	1	—	—
25	6	9	1	—	2	1	1	—
35	6	1	2	—	1	2	—	—
45	5	—	—	—	4	2	1	—
55	3	2	—	—	5	1	—	—
65 upw'ds	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	22	19	6	5	13	9	2	—

Eight cases—seven pulmonary and one non-pulmonary came to notice after death. Five of these were deaths transferable from another area.

The following lable shows how the disease increased during the war years, and indicates that, on the whole, the increase has fallen more heavily on males than on females. During the year under review there was a fall in the number of new cases, but a slight increase in the death rate.

TUBERCULOSIS	1938.			1939.			1940		
NEW CASES.	M.	F.	Total	M	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Respiratory ...	10	11	21 ...	24	12	36 ...	16	15	31
Non-Respiratory ...	1	1	2 ...	2	3	5 ...	1	3	4
DEATHS.									
Respiratory ...	4	8	12 ...	9	3	12 ...	9	16	25
Non-Respiratory ...	1	0	1 ...	2	0	2 ...	0	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS	1941.			1942.			1943.		
NEW CASES.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Respiratory ...	22	14	36 ...	23	12	35 ...	31	15	46
Non-Respiratory ...	3	2	5 ...	0	8	8 ...	6	6	12
DEATHS.									
Respiratory ...	8	13	21 ...	11	7	18 ...	17	5	22
Non-Respiratory ...	3	2	5 ...	1	3	4 ...	1	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS	1944.			1945.		
NEW CASES.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Respiratory ...	27	23	50 ...	22	19	41
Non-Respiratory ...	6	8	14 ...	6	5	11
DEATHS.						
Respiratory ...	12	6	18 ...	13	9	22
Non-Respiratory ...	1	0	1 ...	2	0	2

At the end of the year the following number of cases remained on the tuberculosis register:—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	102 ...	22
Females	73 ...	32
	175	54

CASES REMOVED TO TOLWORTH ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Dysentery	11
Suspected Dysentery	1
Scarlet Fever	44
Suspected Scarlet Fever	9
Erysipelas	1
Pneumonia	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2
Suspected Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3
Measles	46
Diphtheria	3
Suspected Diphtheria	3
Suspected Typhoid	1
	126

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REMOVED TO HOSPITALS OTHER THAN TOLWORTH

Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	1
	2

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED YEARLY DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Scarlet Fever	64	47	22	114	342	73	59
Diphtheria	11	9	10	3	1	1	3
Erysipelas	6	2	6	2	2	4	5
Pneumonia	20	36	24	44	15	9	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	9	6	4	4	1	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	2	10	32
Paratyphoid	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	6	2	2	4	2	2
*Measles	1	497	399	328	220	47	754
*Whooping Cough	7	53	400	33	92	96	48
Tuberculosis (all forms)	41	35	41	43	58	64	52
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Induced Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
*Suspected food poisoning	3	12	14	5	22	5	—

*Notifiable since October, 1939.

	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Dysentery.	Suspected Food Poisoning	Malaria	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Pulmonary tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	Totals.
January ...	4	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	165	11	—	—	1	189
February ...	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	194	10	1	2	1	215
March ...	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	187	5	—	6	2	206
April	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	4	—	5	1	69
May	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	75	1	—	1	2	82
June	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	48	2	—	7	1	66
July	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	6	—	4	1	40
August ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	4	1	15
September ...	4	—	—	1	1	19	—	—	3	5	—	1	—	34
October ...	3	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	12
November ...	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	6	—	14
December ...	9	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	20
Total ...	59	3	3	5	2	32	—	1	754	48	3	41	11	962

CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	England and Wales	Urban District of Esher
Diphtheria	0.46	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.32
Typhoid	0.01	Nil
Paratyphoid	0.01	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.05	0.06
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.08
Measles	11.67	17.11
*Puerperal Pyrexia	9.93	2.80

*Per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births).

SCHOOLS

The number of children attending the County Schools and on the roll at 31st March, 1945, was :

Name of School	No. on roll
Claygate County Primary J.M.	104
Claygate County Primary Infants'	61
Cobham C.E. Secondary	176
Cobham C.E. Primary	218
Cobham County Primary Infants'	110
Cobham Downside C.E. Primary	33
East Molesey C.E. Primary J.B.	115
East Molesey C.E. Primary J.G.	112
East Molesey County Primary Infants'	112
Esher C.E. Boys	46
Esher C.E. Girls	71
Esher C.E. Infants'	79
Hinchley Wood County Secondary Mixed ...	283
Long Ditton C.E. Primary Mixed	130
Long Ditton County Primary Infants'	101
Molesey County Secondary Boys	206
Molesey County Secondary Girls	216
Oxshott C.E. Primary J.M.	35
Thames Ditton County Primary J.M.	155
Thames Ditton County Primary Infants'	78
West Molesey County Primary J.M.	344
West Molesey County Primary Infants'	285
Kingston Day Commercial School	395

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report.

The provision of health services in the area remains substantially unaltered from that set out in recent annual reports.

The following table shows the number of pathological examinations during the year under review:—

Disease.		Total Number
Tuberculosis	Sputa	41
Streptococcal diseases	Swabs	31
Diphtheria	Swabs	94
Dysentery	Faeces	343
Dysentery	Urine	1
Whooping Cough	Cough plate	1
		511

A number of samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, details of which will be found on the following page.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water.*—The water supply provided by the two main water undertakers who supply the district has remained above suspicion.

The regular inspection and sampling of wells in use in rural parts of the district were continued, and nine samples of water from such sources were submitted for bacteriological examination, seven of which were satisfactory. In the remaining cases the water was of a low standard, and the users were given instructions as to the precautions to be adopted when using the water.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.*—No extension of the sewage treatment plant at any of the Council's three works has been carried out during the year and no new sewers have been laid.

3. *Rivers and Streams.*—Attention continues to be given to keeping the public watercourses free from obstruction and pollution.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The farms, cowsheds and dairies have been inspected from time to time during the year, details being given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Samples have been taken for bacteriological examination, for microscopic and biological tests for tuberculosis and the phosphatase test for detecting imperfect pasteurisation of the milk.

The results of the samples taken for the year under review are tabulated below:—

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	
Samples of raw milk submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of Tubercle bacilli ...	19	10	9	9 contained B.Coli.
Samples of raw milk submitted for the detection of Tubercle bacilli	23	23	—	
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test ...	67	66	1	
	109	99	10	

The table above indicates a fairly satisfactory result.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*—Details of the inspection of meat and other foods are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(c) *Adulteration of Foods, etc.*—Full details of administration for the year are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES:—

PREMISES.	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.	2	3	4
Factories with mechanical power	45	1	—
Factories without power	—	—	—
Totals	45	1	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES:—

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
1	2	3	4	5
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Other Offences— (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ...	9	9	—	—
	11	11	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Esher.

June, 1946.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my sixteenth Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1945.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year under review 103 complaints were received and all were investigated.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary) ...	687
Number of houses and premises re-inspected	851
Number of miscellaneous visits	192
Number of visits to works in progress	103
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	111
Number of visits to bakehouses	49
Number of visits to factories	45
Number of visits re disinfection	66
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease	784
Number of visits re disinfestation	59
Visits re Schools	7
Visits re Overcrowding (Housing Act)	12
Visits to A.R.P. Depots, Cleansing Stations, etc.	41
Visits re Food & Drugs Act, 1938	156
Visits to Foodshops	231
Visits to Piggeries	9
Visits re Water Supply	18
Rat Surveys	11
Visits re War Damage	55

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices	169
Abatement notices in respect of nuisances, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	6
Certificates under The Increase of Rent & Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts, 1920-1939	1
Statutory Notices under Section 168, Housing Act, 1936, requisition for information	2

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Repaired, cleansed, etc.	45
Completely relaid	6
Partly relaid	2
Additional provided	1
Gullies fixed or repaired	4
Cesspools emptied	4
Intercepted from sewer	1

MANHOLES

New provided	7
New covers fixed	3
Altered or repaired	4

VENTILATING SHAFTS

Additional provided	1

SOIL PIPES

New fixed	1
Repaired	1

WATER CLOSETS

Rebuilt	2
Additional provided	6
New pans fixed	15
Pans cleansed or repaired	7
Flushing cisterns repaired	9
Seats repaired or new provided	9
Water supply reinstated or provided	3
Anti-Syphonage pipes provided	2
Doors repaired or renewed	2
Internal walls rendered or repaired	1

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New fixed	4
Repaired	6

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

New provided	1
Repaired	7

RAINWATER PIPES

New provided	4

WATER SUPPLY

New storage tanks fixed	8
Water reinstated or laid on	4
Service pipes repaired, etc.	3
Storage cisterns cleansed	3
Storage cistern covered	1

DUST RECEPTACLES

Provided	28

DAMPNESS

Roofs repaired	37
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	10
Ventilation provided under floors	2
External walls pointed	2
External walls rendered	3
House walls treated with solution	1
Damp courses fixed	2
Sills repaired	1

GENERAL REPAIRS

External walls repaired	3
Windows repaired or renewed	13
House floors repaired or renewed	60
Skirting repaired	1
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Ranges and coppers repaired or renewed	12
Internal walls repaired	12
Ceilings repaired or renewed	31
Rooms cleansed	12
Accumulations removed	4
Sash cords renewed	5
Chimney stacks repaired	8
Rooms ventilated	1
Handrails provided	2
Miscellaneous	11

FOOD

As mentioned in previous reports, the slaughtering of food animals in this district has practically ceased.

Occasional slaughter of animals takes place by permission of the Food Executive Officer of the Esher Food Control Committee.

Food premises have been regularly visited and invariably found satisfactory.

Appended is a list giving details of the class and quantity of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In many cases this food was utilised for animal feeding, or in compliance with the directions of the Ministry of Food the material was returned through the suppliers to the recognised salvage organisation for reprocessing, whilst in a few cases it was found necessary to destroy it.

The following table shows the number of visits to shops for the purpose of food inspection, and the comparison of the number of these visits with the previous five years is interesting.

The number of visits to food shops is somewhat lower than in previous years, especially 1944, but it must be pointed out that the Department was without the services of Mr. Hobson for over six months, and the higher figure of 1944 would probably be accounted for by the inspection of foodstuffs damaged by war operations.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
To slaughterhouses ...	37	4	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
To foodshops	390	235	243	336	547	231

The following number of carcases were examined:—

Pigs	23

There were seven slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

The following diseased or otherwise unsound meat and food was surrendered and destroyed or dealt with as previously mentioned:—

Pork Luncheon Meat	132 lbs.
Sausage Meat (4 tins)	6 ,,
Bacon	25½ ,,
Pork	38½ ,,

Tinned Ham	63	lbs.
Breakfast Sausage	32½	,,
Fish	1010	,,
Beef (English)	58½	,,
Rabbits	45½	,,
Chickens (35)	100	,,
Peas (dried)	84	,,
Preserves	73	,,
Sugar	15	,,
Flour	19½	,,
Rice	3¼	,,
Cheese	61½	,,
Shredded Suet	28	,,
Ground Rice	48	,,
Soya Bean Flour	113	,,
Powdered Milk	12	,,
Lentils	14½	,,
Beans	25	,,
Oatmeal	100	,,
Potatoes	336	,,
Dates	180¾	,,
Tea	5¼	,,
Tomatoes	8	,,
Noodles	9	,,
Chocolate	1	,,
Butter	38½	,,
Margarine	179	,,
Semolina	16½	,,
Puff Pastry	36	,,
Coffee	1	,,

1 ton. 6 cwt. 0 qrs. 7¼ lbs.

TINNED, BOTTLED AND OTHER FOOD:

Fish	138	tins
Milk	101	,,
Beans	59	,,
Peas	10	,,
Soups	23	,,
Casserole Stew	5	,,
Meat	9	,,
Golden Syrup	1	,,
Fruit	1	,,
Meat and Vegetable ration	17	,,
Ox Tongue	2	,,
Cordial	31	bottles
Horseradish Cream	29	,,
Sauce	1	bottle
Rolled Oats	20	packets
Pudding Mixture	22	,,
Oranges	690	
Eggs	169	

Total of 336 tins, 61 bottles, 42 packets.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Sampling has been continued throughout the year, a total of 147 samples of various foods and drugs having been obtained and submitted to the Council's Public Analyst.

This total represents an average of 3.33 samples per 1,000 of the population based on the Registrar General's estimated population figure of 44,060 for mid-June.

The following table gives details of the samples obtained:—

	Informal	Formal
Apple Juice	1	—
Aspirin Tables (5 grn.)	1	—
Baking Powder	3	—
Barlova	1	—
Beef Extract	1	—
Beef and Vegetable Extract	1	—
Beer	—	2
Biscuits	1	
Blackcurrant Pastilles	1	—
Blancmange Powder Substitute ...	1	—
Borax and Honey	1	—
Bramble Jelly	1	—
Butter	—	8
Cameron Syrup	1	—
Cake Mixture	1	—
Celery Salt	1	—
Compound Syrup of Figs	3	—
Confection of Senna	1	—
Confectionery	5	—
Curry Powder	1	
Dessert Mould	1	—
Dried Mint	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Fairy Cake Mixture	1	—
Flavouring—Almond	1	—
,, —Orange	1	—
,, —Peppermint	1	—

	Informal	Formal
Flavouring Rasberry	1	—
Flour, Bun	2	—
Forcemeat	1	—
Frutella	1	—
Ginger Wine Essence	1	—
Gravy Browning	1	—
Gravy Salt	1	—
"Grox" Gravy Maker	1	—
Guinness	—	1
Herring Roe	1	—
Horseradish Cream	1	—
Hydrogen Peroxide	1	—
Jam	4	1
Junket Powder	1	—
Kruschen Salts	1	—
Milk	20	40
Mustard	1	—
Nutmegs	1	—
Paste, Meat	1	—
,, Fish	1	—
Pea Flour	1	—
Rennet, Essence of	1	—
Robinson's Patent Groats	1	—
Salad Dressing Powder	1	—
Sausage (containing preserve) ...	—	1
Sausage (no preserve)	—	4
Self Raising Flour	1	—
Semolina Mould	1	—
So Taistee Extract	1	—
Soup	1	—
Soup, Tomato	2	—
Sulphur Lozenges	1	—
Tea	2	—
Tonic Wine	1	—
Yeast Tablets	1	—
	—	—
Totals ...	90	57
	—	—

Genuine 140. Not genuine 7. Total 147.

The following statement gives details of the samples reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst:—

Sample No.	Article	Details of Irregularity	Action taken
25	Aspirin Tablets (5 grn.) (Informal)	Sample contained aspirin 4.5 grains per tablet.	Warning letter sent to vendor.
14	Apple and strawberry jam (full fruit standard) (Informal)	Sample contained strawberry fruit 4 per cent. (Should contain at least 10 per cent of strawberry fruit.)	Formal sample taken (see below under sample No. 18).
18	Plum and strawberry jam (full fruit standard) (Formal)	Sample contained strawberry fruit 5 per cent.	Proceedings instituted. Case adjourned pending result of analysis of third portion of sample by Government chemist. Adjourned hearing. Government chemist's analysis of "third" portion confirmed analysis of Public Analyst. Defendants pleaded guilty and magistrates inflicted a fine of £10 and £7 7s. 0d. costs.
57	Milk (Informal)	13 per cent deficient in milk fat.	Warning letter sent to vendor asking for explanation. Explanation accepted. Subsequent sample proved satisfactory.
103	Milk (Formal)	One per cent of added water.	Facts reported to Council, who decided to send warning letter in view of subsequent "follow up" sample being satisfactory.
124	Salad Dressing Powder (Informal)	Contravention of labelling requirements.	Warning letter sent to manufacturers. Manufacturers replied that this commodity ceased to be manufactured a considerable time ago. Sample purchased was from stock of long standing, although this was not known at the time the sample was purchased. As sample was informal, no further action taken and explanation accepted.
141	Borax and Honey (Informal)	The sample contained Boric Acid 3.4 per cent by weight. This article is prepared with boric acid instead of borax, of which there should be 10 per cent present.	Warning letter sent to manufacturers and explanation requested. Explanation received and accepted.

FACTORIES

The number of visits paid under the Factories Act, 1937, was 94.

49 to Bakehouses.
45 to other Factory premises.

Nineteen Bakehouses have mechanical power and 11 are without mechanical power. There are no underground bakehouses.

SHOPS ACT, 1912—1935

No complaints were received as to contravention of the Acts.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

At the end of the year there were fifty-two persons on the Register as follows:—

Retail Purveyors	2
Retail Purveyors and Producers of Milk	5
Wholesale Producers only	18
Milkshops in the district	19
Purveyors retailing milk from outside the district	8
	52

There were 21 Cowkeepers in the district and the total number of milch cows kept by them is 679.

The 24 dairy farms are situate in the following Wards:—

Claygate	5
Cobham	11
Esher	2
Stoke d'Abernon	4
Thames Ditton	2
	24

At the end of the year there were ten farms producing "Accredited" Milk, the cowkeepers of which had been placed on the Roll of Accredited Producers and four producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been periodically inspected and the half-yearly limewashing carried out.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938, have been issued as follows:—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk ...	5
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk ...	14
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	5
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	6

SPRAYING PONDS AND DITCHES

The systematic spraying of ponds, ditches, water courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out as in previous years.

HOUSE-LONGHORN BEETLE INFESTATION

During the month of June the owner-occupier of a house in the district came to me for advice following his discovery that a destructive insect was attacking the roof and ceiling timber of his house. Specimens were obtained and sent to the Forest Products Research Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Princes Risborough. These specimens were identified as the grub of the house-longhorn beetle, which is rather rare in this country but is responsible for causing serious damage to structural timber on the continent. So much so, in fact, that in Denmark and North Germany it is common, and in some places compulsory, to insure against it.

During the last three or four years, a few cases have come to light in this country, and it is essential that any further spread of the insect should be checked since, as has been proved on the continent, once the beetle becomes established control is very costly and eradication probably impossible.

The grub of the beetle burrows inside the wood for several years, and reduces a large amount of the timber to powder before emerging, as an adult beetle, to lay its eggs on fresh wood. The beetle emerges about July, and one of them was found at the house and sent to the Laboratory.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Entomology Section of the Research Laboratory (Dr. Fisher) came himself to inspect and photograph the damage, and took a very keen interest in the case. Subsequently in a letter he set out

the course of treatment to be followed to control the pest, and this advice has been passed on to the owner. An inspection of two other roofs nearby showed the presence of the insect to a slight extent, and Dr. Fisher was anxious to have further inspections carried out in the vicinity to try to ascertain how far the winged beetle will travel. This task was, however, outside the scope of this department, and the inspectors were unable to devote the necessary time to the matter.

Whilst the Council appeared to have no immediate responsibility in this matter, I considered it advisable to bring the subject to their notice.

The infected roof timbers of the house in question were subsequently removed and reinstated with sound scantlings. All the timbers in the roof void were treated with a preservative and sprayed with an insecticide containing D.D.T. with apparently satisfactory results. Valuable advice in connection with this matter was given by the Department of Entomology, British Museum.

In concluding this report it becomes necessary to place on record that during the year certain changes took place in the personnel.

Miss M. E. Wedderburn, who had been connected with the clerical side of the Department for over a quarter of a century (she was, in fact, in the employ of the Council for 26 years), resigned early in the year to take up an administrative post in the Radium and Deep X-Ray Department of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. Her leaving shook the Department as it did all who knew her, as she had rendered valuable service, and her place was hard to fill. We were, however, particularly fortunate in the appointment of Mrs. V. E. Read who succeeded Miss Wedderburn.

Then in the middle of the year Mr. J. W. Hobson, second Additional Sanitary Inspector, who had been a technical officer in the Department for nine years, secured an appointment as the Sanitary Inspector to the Burgess Hill Urban District Council in Sussex. Mr. Hobson, during his stay here, carried out very useful work as his contribution to the environmental hygiene of the district, especially in Cobham, Esher and Oxshott. Mr. F. L. Barker, who resides in Thames Ditton and was

employed as a Sanitary Inspector by the Corporation of Paddington, succeeded him and commenced duty in the middle of December.

Mr. C. F. Packham, who was the junior in the Department and who joined the R.A.F. in 1941 on becoming 18 years of age, was repatriated in May of 1945 as a result of the invasion of Germany by our victorious Army. Mr. Packham was captured by the Germans after ten days of liberty when parachuting from his badly damaged bomber aircraft. He is still serving, but it is hoped he will be demobilised and back with us in 1946.

Two other appointments to be noted are Mrs. R. J. Britton, a Nurse in the Department, about whom Dr. Fanning has commented in his Report, and Miss D. Marsh who commenced from school in January.

Of the other Sanitary Inspector not mentioned, Mr. J. C. Armstrong, it can only be said he has been a tower of strength in this trying year of upheaval and change, but that is what one always expects of him.

My thanks are tendered to all for the loyal support I have received.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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